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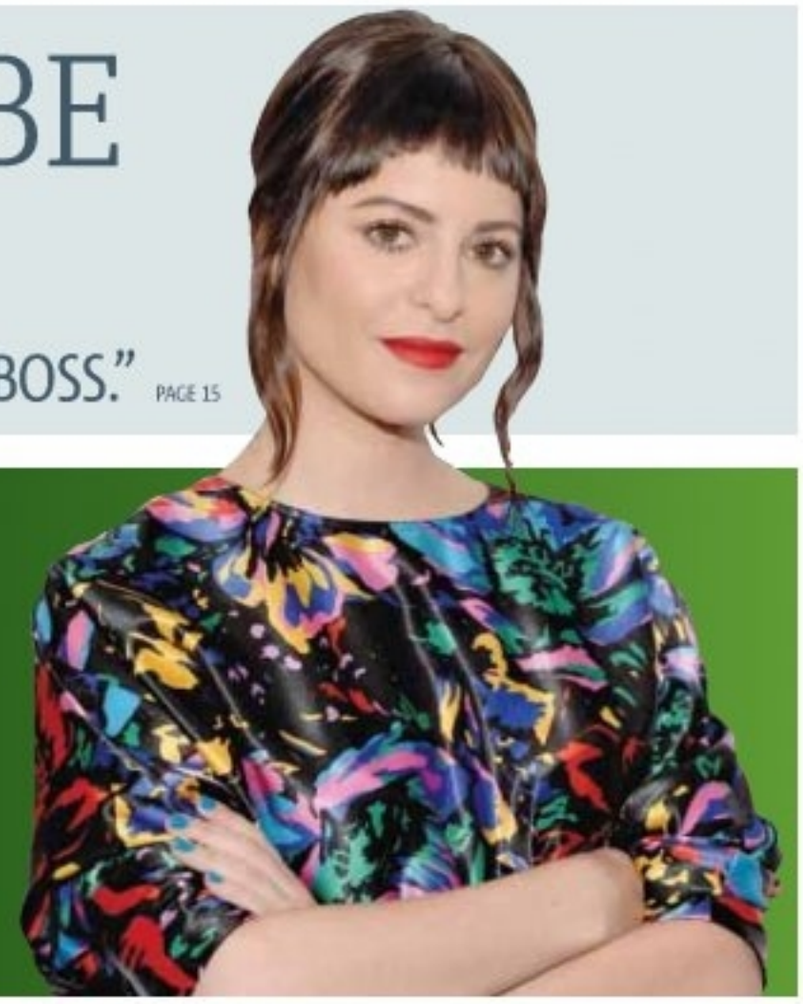
SOPHIA AMORUSO SHARES HER $100 MILLION SECRET IN "#GIRLBOSS." PAGE 15



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Tuesday, May 6, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Lineup for Welcome America! PAGE 02

Ed Sheeran, Ariana Grande and Nicki Minaj will join other top performers for the country's biggest Fourth of July party. / GETTY IMAGES

Bacon Festival postponed

PAGE 04

Emma Stone gets schooled

PAGE 16

See Europe like you're a native

PAGE 20

PHL reaches agreement on billion-dollar addition

Residents are protected. The expansion, which includes a 1,500-foot runway, will not affect residents' homes in Tinicum Township, a concern over the last decade. **Travel faster.** Airport officials say the expansion by 2025 will cut wait times in half and add revenue. PAGE 04

Nutter: Philly could host 'Tonight Show'

Jennifer Hudson, right, and Aloe Blacc, bottom, will perform at the Welcome America! concert. The city hopes "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon, left, joins the fun. / GETTY IMAGES

Welcome America!

The city will celebrate the nation's birthday with a weeklong festival and a free concert on July 4.

Sure, The Roots, Nicki Minaj, Jennifer Hudson, Ed Sheeran and a five-ton Wawa hoagie will be in attendance for the weeklong "Welcome America!" festivities leading up to the Fourth of July, but one special guest has yet to accept Philadelphia's invitation.

That's Jimmy Fallon.

"We're working on it," said Mayor Michael Nutter, who was at Liberty Place in Center City on Monday for the official "Welcome America!" announcement.

Nutter said the city asked Fallon to broadcast "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" from the City of Brotherly Love during the Independence Day-themed festival this summer.

"It's just something that I've thrown out there, but you know, obviously it takes a lot to move an entire production outfit to another city, and every city would want them," Nutter said.

"On the other hand," he added, we would be the easiest place to go, certainly only an hour down the road, so we'll see."

Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson, a native Philadelphian and co-founder of The Roots, who performs nightly as Fallon's house band on the New York-based talk show, said the idea is still up in the air.

"I see it as a possibility," Thompson said. "We're going to talk about travel and doing certain places soon."

Nutter, who also announced the festival will start on June 29 and end with an all-day free concert on July 4, said Philadelphia has hosted a popular talk show in the past.

"Back in 2008, some people don't remember, but we had [Stephen] Colbert for a week during the campaign," he said. "It was at the University of Pennsylvania, but so, with [The Roots] being here and from here, and people love Jimmy Fallon, and that combination, I've thrown it out there."

NBC did not return a request for comment by press time.

TOMMY ROWAN
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Check it out

The seven-day celebration kicks off Saturday, June 28 and ends on Friday, July 4.

Here are some highlights:
June 28: The Shops at Liberty Place hosts a block party.

- **June 30:** Free admission to the Academy of Natural Sciences.
- **July 2:** Wawa feeds more than 17,000 with its five-ton hoagie. Free admission to the National Constitution Center.
- **July 4:** Independence Parade, concert and fireworks.

The lineup

Philadelphia natives The Roots will once again serve as the Welcome America! house band.

The group will share the stage on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway with artists:

- Rapper **Nicki Minaj**, who has a new album out this year.

ALOE BLACC WILL PERFORM AS PART OF THE WELCOME AMERICA! CONCERT
GETTY IMAGES

- English singer/songwriter **Ed Sheeran**
- Pop star **Ariana Grande**
- Singer and rapper **Aloe Blacc**
- R&B singer **Jennifer Hudson**
- "The Voice" finalist **Vicci Martinez**

1 NEWS

Local tweet

"Received a email from Ticketmaster telling me the Pennsylvania Bacon Festival was postponed. I didn't have tickets to it, but still bummed."

Well, @sanitynow777, who lives in Madison, Wisconsin, Philly is a great place to visit in the fall. And it's more fun when you sleep over ... on a full stomach.

Top 3

What's trending online at Metro.us?

1. **'"Mad Men" recap: Season 7, Episode 4, "The Monolith"'**
2. **'NSFW: Rihanna's Instagram account mysteriously shuts down'**
3. **'Three men charged with fatal Kensington stabbing outside restaurant on Sunday'**

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Area residents, airport agree on expansion plan

Flying high. By 2025, Philadelphia Airport will expand — by billions of dollars — now that neighbors approve.

Tinicum Township commissioner Patrick McCarthy shows some of the features of the new expansion plan. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

A tentative deal to expand the Philadelphia International Airport after eight years of resistance by Tinicum Township residents has been reached, officials announced Monday.

"They wanted to push into Tinicum Township and take about 72 homes. This saves the homes [and] reconfigures the way they were going to do the expansion," said Delaware County Council chairman Tom McCarrigle.

The agreement still needs Federal Aviation Administration approval. And Tinicum residents vote Thursday, said board of commissioners president Thomas Giancristoforo.

"Myself and the other four commissioners have worked vigorously to come up with something that we know we can live with and the residents are protected," he said. "Once we knew that our residents were protected, that 72 homes would not be purchased and that they would not be expanding into the residential area, that made us comfortable."

The planned expansion includes the addition of a 1,500-foot runway, and is expected to cut passenger wait times in half. Instead of taking homes, the UPS Center near the airport will move to the former Scott Paper buildings nearby, the airport's cargo facilities will be reorganized and wooded land near the airport will be developed.

The expansion will cost approximately $6.42 billion.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Where's the pork?

Bacon Festival postponed

The America Loves Bacon Team, who were set to bring the inaugural Pennsylvania Bacon Festival to Philadelphia on Saturday, has been postponed until October.

"After careful consideration and logistical meetings on site, we've realized we cannot produce the quality event we want to produce with the space constraints of the site," said a message on their Facebook, website and Ticketfly email.

According to the message, the Bacon Festival will now be held in October and all tickets will be honored. However, some people on social media were upset the announcement came just five days before the festival. Emails sent to the group for comment were not returned by press time.

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA

A hotly contested Cinco de Mayo in Philly

Temple student Abbey Harris growls next to an "alebrije" sculpture, part of the inaugural alebrije contest during the City's second-annual Mexico Week, which ended on Monday, Cinco de Mayo. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

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City Living Flame Memorial honors police, firefighters

Homage. A police detective who died in 1987 will be honored today, along with hundreds of others.

More than 25 years after Philadelphia Police Det. Gerard W. Traynor died, his name will be put on the city's Living Flame Memorial today.

It took nearly three decades for officials and Traynor's family to deem his death as having occurred in the line of duty. He died of a heart attack a day after a fight with a reportedly aggressive prisoner.

He will be honored along with other fallen police and fire personnel at the annual ceremony today at noon at Franklin Square Park.

"It's a way to acknowledge that their deaths were not in vain," said Randy Giancaterino, city spokesman, "and to have them all in one place so they have a presence."

Mayor Michael Nutter joins Fire Commissioner Lloyd Ayers, Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey, members of both fire and police and dozens of other local and regional groups for the memorial service.

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
@cpaciolla
christina.paciolla@metro.us

Paying tribute

There are about 500 names of police officers and firefighters who have died in the line of duty in Philadelphia since the city has been keeping records, said Giancaterino.

- Luckily, there have been no firefighter or police officer deaths in Philadelphia in a year. Firefighter Capt. Michael Goodwin was killed in April of 2013 in a Queen Village fire.

Protesters: Break bread, save Earth

A group of environmentalists, including Susan Saxe, protested outside of Sen. Bob Casey's office on Monday, urging him to stand strong on his environmental principles and vote "no" on the upcoming Keystone XL pipeline bill. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO

Going once, going twice

District opens bids for 20 properties

The city is now accepting offers on 20 more of its empty school district buildings.

All 20 properties are listed at www.PHLschoolsales.com. Potential buyers can also place bids on the website. The bidding process started on Monday and will be accepted until all properties have been sold.

However, interested parties are asked to submit offers before June 9. An independent authority will make recommendations starting then.

METRO

Viral video

Arrest soon for SEPTA masturbator

A man filmed masturbating on a SEPTA bus has been identified and a warrant for his arrest is being processed, police said. The video was posted on Facebook.

METRO

RI circus collapse probe focusing on clamp: Official

Accident. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is investigating the cause of the collapse.

Investigators probing the collapse of a rigging at a Providence, Rhode Island, circus that badly injured nine performers and stunned the audience were focused on Monday on a clamp that snapped, a city official said.

Eight acrobats remained hospitalized, two in critical condition, following the Sunday incident, when the rig holding them hanging by their hair collapsed in front of an audience of about 3,900 people, including young children.

"We have identified the clamp that snapped that held them to the rafters and it failed," Providence Public Safety Commissioner Steven Pare told WPRO-AM radio in Providence on Monday.

Pare could not be reached immediately to elaborate. But officials from Feld Entertainment, which owns the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, said it was too soon identify the cause of the collapse.

"The comments by the commissioner in Providence are premature at this point," circus spokesman Stephen Payne said. "We hope to release more information at the conclusion of the investigation into what caused the accident."

In addition to the two performers in critical condition, three were in serious condition and three others in good condition, according to a spokeswoman for Rhode Island Hospital, where the acrobats were brought after the collapse. Another performer was treated and released on Sunday.

"The injuries were severe on some of the performers, but none appear to be life-threatening at this time," Payne said in an email. REUTERS

Fall

40

The all-female team fell about 40 feet to the floor while performing the so-called "chandelier" act.

Maritime threats. Philippines and US begin war games

Thousands of Philippine and U.S. soldiers began annual war games on Monday, the first under a new security pact with the United States, focusing on maritime security in the face of China's growing naval presence in the disputed South China Sea.

The joint exercises, "Balikatan" (shoulder-to-shoulder), would test the combat readiness of the two oldest allies in this part of the world to respond to any maritime threats, including piracy and humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

The new security pact was signed last week just hours before U.S. President Barack Obama visited. Obama said the agreement was a testament to Washington's "pivot" to Asia and was an "ironclad" commitment to defend the Philippines.

The Philippines has territorial disputes with China over the South China Sea, which is said to be rich in energy deposits. REUTERS

Important waters

$5B

The South China Sea carries about $5 billion in ship-borne trade every year.

The war games will see U.S. F-18 fighters rehearse bombing runs and troops involved in live fire drills. / GETTY IMAGES

Fed study

Skip college, forfeit $800K

Over a lifetime, the average U.S. college graduate will earn at least $800,000 more than the average high school graduate, a study published Monday by the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco shows.

That's after accounting for the high cost of college tuition and the four years of wages lost during the time it takes to complete a typical undergraduate degree, the researchers found.

"Although there are stories of people who skipped college and achieved financial success, for most Americans the path to higher future earnings involves a four-year college degree," wrote Mary Daly, the San Francisco Fed's associate director of research, and Leila Bengali, a research associate, in the latest Economic Letter from the regional Fed bank. REUTERS

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Gubernatorial candidate and former state senator Mike Kopp, right, in yellow tie, prays with his wife, Shannon, middle, and their campaign staff. / GETTY IMAGES

High court upholds prayers before local government meetings

Bow your head. The justices said prayer is OK as long as it does not try to coerce or convert nonbelievers.

Vote
5-4
The court said in a 5-4 vote that the town of Greece, New York, did not violate the Constitution by allowing Christian prayers before government meetings.

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday gave local government officials across the United States more leeway to begin public meetings with a prayer, ruling that sectarian invocations do not automatically violate the U.S. Constitution.

Although such prayers have long been a tradition in some communities, the high court had never before expressly said sectarian prayers could be constitutional in some circumstances or specifically held that prayers could be given before meetings of local government entities.

In Monday's decision, the court said a prayer would violate the Constitution if there was an attempt to intimidate, coerce or convert nonbelievers. Even the two town residents who sued had conceded that the Constitution permits some types of nonsectarian prayers. REUTERS

Town ordinances

Supreme Court declines to hear Nebraska immigration case

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday left intact a Nebraska town's ordinance that cracks down on illegal immigration, declining to hear an appeal filed by a civil rights group.

The 2010 ordinance in Fremont, Nebraska, includes a provision that bars landlords from renting to illegal immigrants.

Plaintiffs represented by the Mexican American Legal Defense Fund sued, saying the measure was trumped by federal immigration law. REUTERS

Shot down. SCOTUS declines new gun regulations challenge

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday declined to weigh in on whether gun owners have a constitutional right to carry handguns outside the home.

The court decided not to hear a challenge to a New Jersey state law that requires people who want to carry handguns to show they have a special reason before they can get a permit. The court has shown a reluctance to wade in on the issue in recent months, declining to hear cases that challenged similar regulations in New York and Maryland.

The gun owners challenging the law said that the right to bear arms enshrined in the Second Amendment was not limited to the right to keep a handgun at home.

By declining to hear the New Jersey case, the Supreme Court left intact a July 2013 decision by the Philadelphia-based 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that upheld the law. REUTERS

Helicopter shot down. Ukraine moves special forces to Odessa

Pro-Russian rebels shot down a Ukrainian helicopter in fierce fighting near the eastern town of Slovyansk on Monday, and Kiev drafted police special forces to the southwestern port city of Odessa to halt a feared westward spread of rebellion.

Ukraine said the Odessa force, based on "civil activists," would replace local police who had failed to tackle rebel actions over the weekend. Its dispatch was a clear signal from Kiev that, while tackling rebellion in the east, it would vigorously resist any sign of a slide to a broader civil war.

Odessa, with its ethnic mix from Russians to Ukrainians, Georgians to Tatars a cultural contrast to the pro-Russian east, was quiet on Monday. Ukrainian flags flew at half mast for funerals of some of the dozens killed in clashes on Friday.

The wait for pro-Russian separatists continues in the town of Semenevka in Slovyansk, Ukraine. / GETTY IMAGES

Slovyansk

118K

In the east, fighting intensified around the pro-Russian stronghold of Slovyansk, a city of 118,000, where rebel fighters ambushed Ukrainian forces early in the day.

The sound of an air-raid siren could be heard in the center of Slovyansk, and a church bell rang in the main square.

Russia's foreign ministry called on Kiev to "stop the bloodshed, withdraw forces and finally sit down at the negotiating table." It also published an 80-page report detailing "widespread and gross human rights violations" in Ukraine over the past six months, for which it blamed the new government and its Western allies. REUTERS

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Murder trail

Witness feared Pistorius might shoot himself

A defense witness in the murder trial of South African track star Oscar Pistorius told the court on Monday she feared the double amputee would shoot himself with the gun he used to kill his girlfriend on Valentine's Day last year.

Carice Viljoen and her father, Johan, the manager of Pistorius' up-market Pretoria housing complex, were first on the scene after the 27-year-old shot dead his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp, in the early hours of February 14, 2013.

She said she feared Pistorius might use the gun he had left upstairs to kill himself after emergency services staff asked him to fetch the already dead Steenkamp's identification.

Pistorius' defense hinges on his assertion that he heard a noise in the middle of the night and thought it was an intruder climbing into the bathroom adjoining his bedroom.

When he heard another noise coming from the toilet he fired four shots through the door, thinking an intruder was behind it. Steenkamp, a 29-year-old law graduate and model, was hit by at least three of the four hollow-point rounds fired and died almost instantly. REUTERS

PISTORIUS
GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"I was scared that he might shoot himself. ... I couldn't hear him."

Viljoen told the court as the trial resumed after a two-week adjournment.

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Money tips for recent college graduates

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Welcome to the real world. Your bank account is one of the few things you can control after graduation. Here's how.

You finished college and are hopefully about to make more money than ever, but you still have to pay off your student loans. How do you manage to do it right? Finance expert Gillian Verga of MoneyStream shares her tips.

What do students about to graduate need to know about academic loans?
The terms are going to vary, so it's up to the student to read the documentation. Most start pretty soon after graduation. It's important to start paying off a little bit at a time and make that a habit rather than putting it off.

When it comes to money, what are the biggest mistakes recent grads make?
This might not be earth-shattering, but one of the biggest things is that they are not starting to save as soon as they get an income. You start working and you're excited to have an income, so now you can buy things you couldn't before. You also feel like there's a long time until retirement, so it's really tempting to put off saving until you're older. If your employer offers a 401K, you should absolutely take advantage of that. If not, you should start finding other ways to save.

What are your money-saving tips for living in an expensive city, like Philadelphia?
Think about your finances when you rent your apartment. Make sure you are not renting something that doesn't give you any leeway in your monthly expenses. When you get your income for the month, it's a good habit to take out the bills that you have to pay and take out your saving amount first. Then calculate the rest of your spending. Transfer the money to a fund. That is good way to see how much you can actually spend after the bills and savings have been taken care of.

Q&A

What is the one thing that everyone should know about money?
Watch out for credit card fees. When you are young, you get a lot of credit card offers. You may be able to sign up for a lot of debt, and the banks are happy to let you do that. But if you are carrying a balance on your credit card, you end up paying a lot of money in interest — and you can end up paying late fees. They can eat into your finances, so looking out for those costs and making sure that you are paying bills on time is important for saving money, but it's also important for keeping a healthy credit score. Your credit score may not seem important to you when you are a college grad, but when you are ready to buy a house, you're going to care that your credit score isn't good.

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How a single mom does it all

Making money.
Sometimes you have to be a little clever to make ends meet.

Tonika Grant, here in a shirt from her Sketxhy Chix fashion line. / PROVIDED

What's your primary job?
I work with HIV/AIDS Service Administration. We help people with HIV and AIDS find the services they need and help them get on their feet. ... I work Monday through Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

How old is your son now?
He's 10, so he's in school, which is a big help. He goes to an after-school program, which gets out around 4:45 p.m. My little sister also is a huge help. She also helps with my fashion line when I'm at work.

Right, you also have a fashion line with your cousin. How did that come about?
It's called Sketxhy Chix and it's female apparel with attitude. My cousin and I started the line a year ago. When we started, we had no idea what to do. We were clueless. Luckily, my brother is a phenomenal artist, so he draws all our designs. But it was a lot of Googling in those early days. People can make purchases online at www.sketxhychix.com.

Since you work full-time, how do you have time to focus on the fashion line?
I work on the line when I get home from work. I am the brains behind the designs and oversee all the production and social media. My cousin does the accounting, numbers and website, and my sister takes orders when they are emailed to us. Being a mom, entrepreneur and a case manager are all full-time jobs, but I love it.

Are you happy with the way your life is as far as your work life?
I'm definitely happy with the way things are, but I would love for my passion to become my paycheck.

Q&A

What is the hardest part about being a single mom and working multiple jobs?
The hardest part is finding quality time to spend with my son. By the time I get home from work, we only have about four hours together before he has to go to bed. But he is just so sweet and helps me put all the packages together to mail out. He tells me he wants to start a business of his own someday, but making video games. I like that I can influence him and be a positive role model in his life. You don't have to be a basketball player or a football player to motivate a [young boy]. So that's satisfying for me.

The stats

Tonika Grant

Age: 33
Home: Brooklyn, N.Y.
Lives with: Her son, 10
Number of jobs: 2

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Study notes

Got fish?

There's something fishy going on at Boston University (but not in a bad way). Three dining halls met local fishermen who served their local catches on April 24. Fishermen who actually caught the seafood in the Catch of the Day meal talked about their livelihood operating small boats from Rhode Island to Maine.

A few years ago, BU's Dining Services launched a partnership with Red's Best. They began collaborating on their weekly Catch of the Day meal for students to enjoy fresh seafood with a traceable QR code noting where the fish were caught, who caught them and the captain's home port.

Nahum Villanueva, left, and Claudio Flores work at Red's Best, a local seafood supplier in Boston that recently struck up a partnership with Boston University to provide fresh seafood every week. / JACKIE RICCIARDI

It's easy being green

Temple University has been named one of the most environmentally responsible schools in the country. Per a 2013 Princeton Review survey, 62 percent of nearly 10,000 college applicants revealed that their decisions to either apply to or attend an institution would be affected by a school's level of commitment to the environment.

Temple was praised for creating its Office of Sustainability after signing the American College & University Presidents' Climate Commitment, which addresses global climate disruptions made by higher ed institutions. The office also created an "eco village" — a pop-up exhibit featuring displays, performances and demonstrations addressing sustainability. VICKI SALEMI

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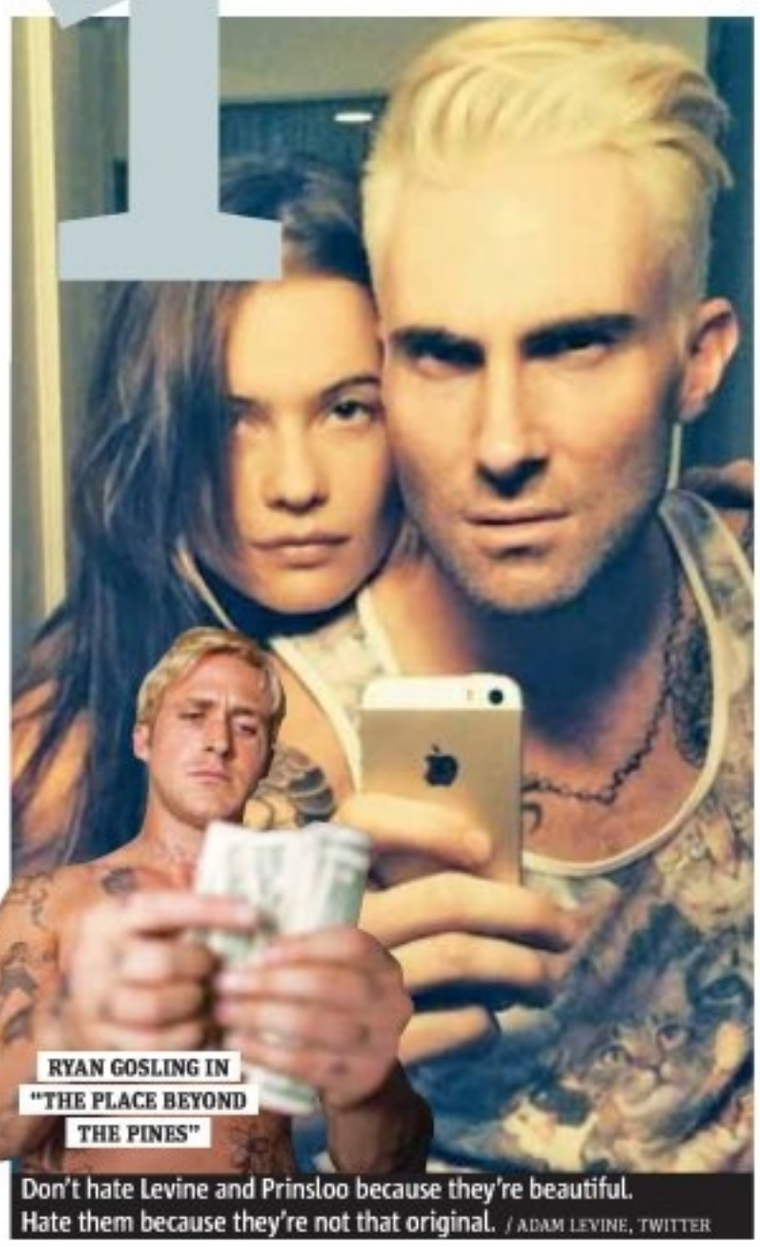
1 Levine now looks like every platinum blond who ever lived



RYAN GOSLING IN "THE PLACE BEYOND THE PINES"

Don't hate Levine and Prinsloo because they're beautiful. Hate them because they're not that original. / ADAM LEVINE, TWITTER

When Pretty McPretty-boy Adam Levine tweeted out the photo on the left of his new hairstyle (along with his pillow-lipped fiancee, Behati Prinsloo) on Saturday, everyone got pretty mad that he would go ahead and ruin that pretty face of his. So mad that "Adam Levine" started trending. However, the Maroon 5 singer took it all in stride. "I hope people understand that when they say my hair looks creepy, I take that as the highest compliment," he wrote about the hairy backlash.

However, Levine must know that he looks like a certain … someone. Maybe even a few someones? We compiled pics of the women — and men — he now resembles. Anyone we're missing? Write in to let us know.

P!nk / GETTY IMAGES

Tabatha Coffey / EPISODIC

TILDA SWINTON
GETTY IMAGES

2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

George Lopez, Mario Lopez (no relation), Melissa Joan Hart, Ellen DeGeneres and Queen Latifah were celebrating Cinco de Mayo in different ways yesterday. Hopefully no one is celebrating a hangover today.

@georgelopez: Happy #CincoDeMayo! Today EVERYBODY is Mexican _ So watch your cholesterol, and drive slow #chingon

@MarioLopezExtra: Good morning. Happy Cinco De Mayo!! Celebrating 'Cinco De Mario' on @onwithmario & @extratv all day...

@melissajoanhart: Toasting with some water at #BarTaco for #Cinco DeMayo. Saving my margarita for tonight.

@IAMQUEENLATIFAH: Kickin' off #CincoDeMayo on @QLShow right w @Ricky_Martin & I'm hookin up @ItsFlo Henderson on a date! Don't miss it!

@TheEllenShow: Feliz Cinco de Mayo! This might be Mayo favorite holiday.

3 Director hit with another sexual assault claim

A second man has come forward accusing "X-Men: Days of Future Past" director Bryan Singer of sexual assault.

The British man, referred to as John Doe #117, is represented by the same lawyer as the first accuser, Michael Egan. John Doe claims he was introduced to Singer at the U.K. premiere party for "Superman Returns" when he was 17 years old. In his complaint, he claims that Singer offered him drugs and later grabbed him in a sexual manner and asked him to perform sex acts, according to the Daily Beast. After he refused, he says, a "large, muscle-bound man" hit him.

Singer's lawyer, Marty Singer (no relation), maintained that the accusations are false. The allegations are similar to those made by the first accuser. Egan, who was 17 at the time of the alleged assaults in 1998, was then an aspiring model and actor. He says he met the director through a Hollywood sex ring run by Marc Collins-Rector, a producer and convicted sex offender. He says that Collins-Rector put him on the payroll and required him to have sex with adults.

BRYAN SINGER
FILMMAGIC

Talking points

Katie Couric back at 'Today'?

Eight years since she took her leave from "Today," it looks like Katie Couric might be coming back to the NBC morning program — but only for a bit.

The NY Post and TMZ.com report that Couric is in talks to fill in for co-anchor Savannah Guthrie while Guthrie is on maternity leave in four months.

Though it's only in the talking stages and it's unclear how this will work out with Couric's other gigs — she is with ABC until midsummer and famously signed on to be the first-ever Global Anchor at Yahoo sometime soon — it would be nice to see Katie back in the anchor seat, if just for a little while.

If she's not available, I wonder if they would call Ann Curry? Ha ha ha ha. Just kidding — they would never, ever call Ann Curry.

Santana Lopez is still on 'Glee'

Despite rumors to the contrary, Santana Lopez is alive and still on "Glee."

Rumors abound that actress Naya Rivera, who plays Santana, would be let go from the show after spats with producers and co-star Lea Michele. But Fox released a statement saying it's not so. "There is no truth to the rumor Naya has been fired from the show," the Fox Network told The Associated Press, adding, "She remains under contract to 'Glee.'"

If Rivera was looking for assurance, hearing that she "remains under contract" probably doesn't help. Maybe she should do a duet with the Fox execs.

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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NAYA RIVERA
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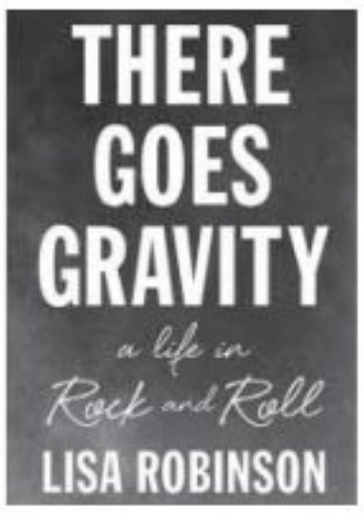
Lisa Robinson's memoir, "There Goes Gravity," is out now. / PROVIDED

LISA ROBINSON

Meet the woman who has helped shape the music scene from 1969 to now.

BACKSTAGE PASS TO NEW YORK'S ROCK 'N' ROLL SCENE

Inviting Lou Reed and David Bowie over for dinner or hanging out on the tour bus with The Rolling Stones in the summer of 1975 were just typical days for music journalist Lisa Robinson. Now she's gifting us with tales from her rock 'n' roll life in her new memoir, "There Goes Gravity." We talk with Robinson about just a few of the crazy stories from her adventurous life.



On being the only woman on the rock 'n' roll scene: "It was kind of interesting to me because I was the only woman covering this very misogynistic boys club — but it still is that. ... People assume that if you're a woman and you're hanging around rock 'n' roll that you're there for the party. I was not. I was there for the music. ... Would someone ask a male music journalist if he was tempted to sleep with Lady Gaga or Florence Welch? Nobody asks them that."

On how covering music has changed: "It was such a different time [when I started]. You didn't have publicists or celebrities connecting with fans through social media. No one was worried about their brand or 'image.' There were no fragrance lines. ... But I [can still write the same type of stories]. I just did a cover story on Jay Z for Vanity Fair this past summer, and it was incredibly deep. I spent days with him, and the transcript from various interviews was 150 pages long."

EMILY LAURENCE
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Just rock 'n' roll

On sex and drugs

"I was never tempted to sleep with anyone I was covering. Everyone always asks me and says things like, 'But Mick Jagger was so cute! You never thought about it for a second?' First of all, my husband was cuter than anybody. And also, it wasn't even a temptation. I saw the way these bands treated groupies, and I kind of thought it was disgusting. It really wasn't even tempting for me. The same thing with cocaine. Every time I saw somebody on coke, I thought they were babbling idiots."

Nasty Gal CEO shares unlikely success story

Amoruso paid tribute to her dumpster-diving past during a recent Nasty Gal photo shoot. / INSTAGRAM, NASTYGAL

Interview. We talk to the wildly successful Sophia Amoruso about her new book, "#GirlBoss."

Just 10 years ago, Nasty Gal CEO Sophia Amoruso was dumpster diving, shoplifting, hitchhiking and drifting from job to job. Now, she is the CEO of a $100 million retail business and author of "#GIRLBOSS," an honest account of her unconventional career path.

Your book couldn't be more different from "Lean In."
If it's a man's world, who cares? It's kind of like, "Yes, lean in, but you don't need to talk about it." The energy you use talking about it, you could use to actually lean in.

You don't give steps or a plan to readers on how to be successful. Why is that?
I just want people to learn from my experiences. You can learn from other people's successes and failures.

Do you have any tips for young women who don't know what they want to do yet?
You just have to keep trying things. I knew I wanted to be good at something. I thought I was going to be a photographer. Had I tried to control that too much and said, "Screw this eBay thing," I don't know if I would have fulfilled any level of a dream.

Do you think it was to your advantage that you never had many professional mentors?
There's a lot to learn from what other people have done, but there's also a lot to doing things your own way.

Do you regret living the wild life when you were hitchhiking and shoplifting?
That phase was pretty short. … Unfortunately, I think I was naive enough to have to learn about the world by putting myself in situations like that.

Q&A

Sound advice

What was the best advice you ever got?
My friend said, "I change what I can at arm's reach." That's what a book is. That's what putting clothes on girls that feel really good about themselves after they put it on is. When you live your life and treat people with respect and work hard and play by the rules – which I only learned from trial and error – it can create really great things.

ANDREA PARK
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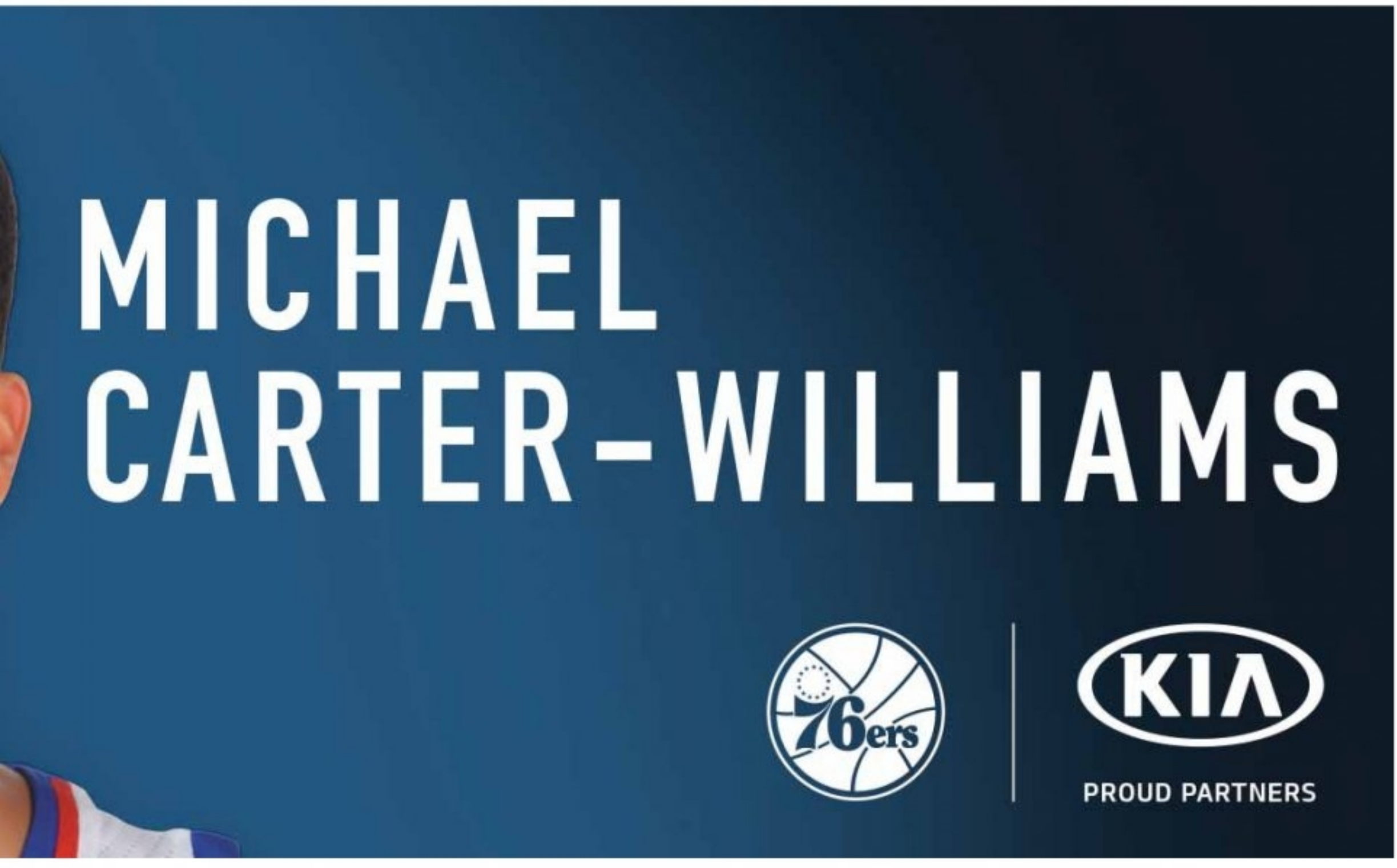
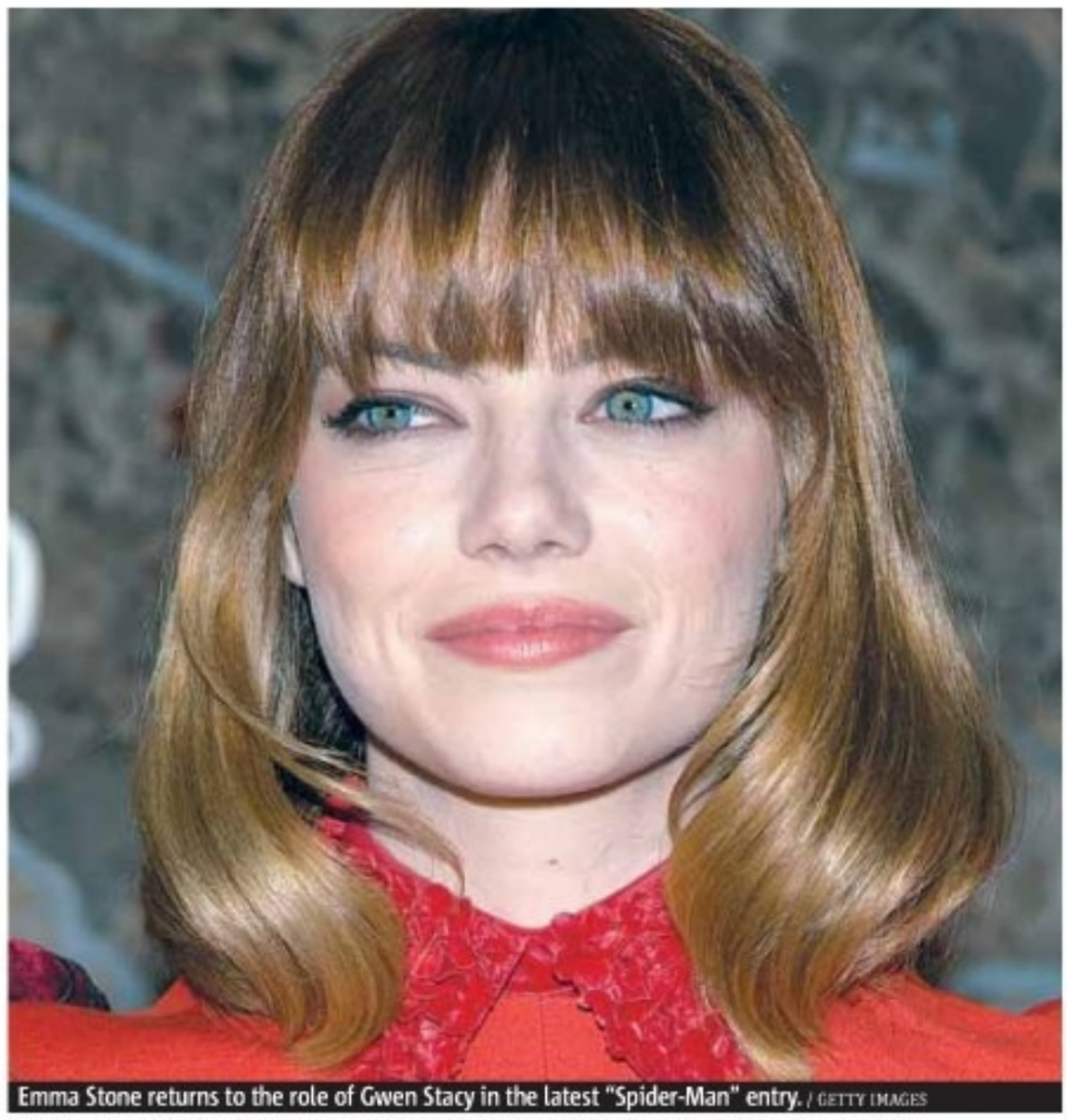


More than just Spidey's girlfriend


Emma Stone returns to the role of Gwen Stacy in the latest "Spider-Man" entry. / GETTY IMAGES

Interview. Emma Stone says that, in the new "Spider-Man," Gwen Stacy is an independent woman.

It's early (or early-ish), and Emma Stone is not really awake. Even after caffeinated reinforcements are brought in, she apologizes for her answers. Of course, this in itself is part of how she charms her way though the press duties for "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," the sequel to the 2012 reboot, in which she again plays Spidey's gal pal Gwen Stacy.

Then again, there's stuff to talk about; this sequel isn't simply a repeat of the first. "There's more solidity to Gwen in this movie," Stone says. "I think because of her father dying in the first, she's much clearer and more mature. She knows she wants to go to college, she knows what she wants to do with her life."

Her obstacle is Andrew Garfield's Peter Parker, who isn't sure they can date but is reluctant to let her go. Stacy won't let him drag her down. "She's not staying behind, waiting to see what her boyfriend decides. She's making her own decisions," she says. "She's following her destiny, whether it's Peter's destiny or not, and hoping he can figure out how to work into that. She's a role model for modern women; she's making her way in the world and not waiting around for a guy."

Gwen and Peter — and also Stone and Garfield — still have repartee, which exists in part because the writers this time knew how the off-screen couple played off each other. But Gwen is still her own person, and Stone sought to learn more about her business. Gwen's a budding scientist, which drove Stone — who, like many who get into acting in their teens, holds a GED — to sit in on classes at Columbia. "[The professor] explained to me how the brain works. I took notes and it was interesting, but I realize I didn't fully understand it."

The film was also shot entirely — not just partially, like the first — in New York City. "I can't believe we didn't shoot the first one in New York City. It feels like this is meant to be, this is home. There are people who come from far and wide to see Spider-Man and meet him in the streets."

MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
matt.prigge@metro.us

Quoted

"She's not staying behind, waiting to see what her boyfriend decides. She's making her own decisions. ... She's a role model for modern women: She's making her way in the world and not waiting around for a guy." Stone, on her character Gwen Stacy in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

On the set

Crazy like a Foxx

The shoot also allowed her to work with Jamie Foxx who, despite playing tortured villain Electro, remained himself. "He's good at everything. He makes everybody laugh, then he's DJing then he's dancing, doing stand-up," she says of his on-set behavior.

See more at www.metro.us

She even got a surprise when they went on The Foxxhole, the actor's Sirius station. "We went to do a cast interview, and all of a sudden it was Jamie asking us questions on his radio station."

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‘TROUBLE EVERY DAY’ IS ONE SAD VAMPIRE MOVIE

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Beatrice Dalle is caught red-handed (and red-everything-elsed) in the art-vampire film “Trouble Every Day.” / KIMSTIM

Few films are as “love it or hate it” as Claire Denis’ “Trouble Every Day,” an art-vampire film that, upon its release in 2001, earned equal parts adoration and loathing, with little in between. That’s understandable: It’s a sad yet unimaginably bloody film, sporting two of the most messed-up things you’ll ever see in a movie. Both involve the slow and agonizing destruction of human bodies, the victims screaming bloody murder as what they thought would be sex leads to them being lovingly devoured.

Neither of these set pieces is pleasant, but the rest of “Trouble Every Day” — newly released on DVD, if not, alas, on Blu-ray — is seductively moody and melancholic. Denis’ films (like last year’s “Bastards”) favor sensations over cold logic. Indeed, not everyone will buy Vincent Gallo as a scientist, though he’s peerlessly convincing as a frustrated crank driven by inner demons to find a cure for a disease that makes him long for human flesh. The illness is worse in a former colleague (Beatrice Dalle), who’s so far gone that she’s more animal than human.

Though “Trouble Every Day” is sometimes classified as Extreme Cinema, it never adopts the language of the genre, even as it pushes the gore to the limits of taste. It’s still a Claire Denis film, meaning it’s slow and sumptuous. The score is by regular Denis collaborators Tindersticks, whose late-night brooding music feels like it’s always been a part of every anguished image. If all vampire films use the subject as a metaphor, in “Trouble Every Day,” it’s about being in the throes of bottomless addiction, crippled by the constancy of the pain and longing it forces upon you, but ecstatic when the fix finally, destructively comes.

DISC JOCKEY MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

Also out

‘I Love Lucy: Ultimate Season One’

Today’s viewers love binge-watching, but TV wasn’t always as consistent as it is today. Some episodes of even Lucille Ball’s big show rightly fell into obscurity. But judge for yourself!

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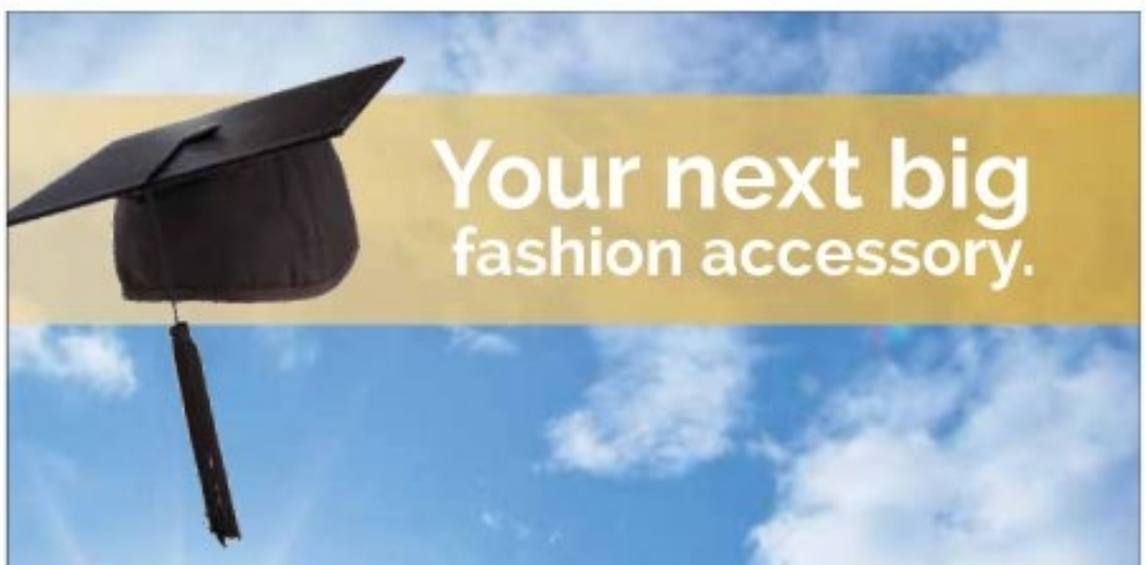

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Breaking into the South Philly clique

Dinner party. "Brainpeople" is Luna's latest dark show in its new home — in a church.

Before Luna Theater signed the lease on its new home, a building owned by the Church of the Crucifixion in South Philly, the theater company had a few awkward conversations with its potential landlords.

"I said to them, I think you should know that, well, um, last year we did a play where someone ate a dead baby onstage," says artistic director Gregory Scott Campbell. But the Episcopal church had no interest in censorship, and soon a deal was brokered by Partners for Sacred Spaces, a nonprofit that specializes in church/arts collaborations.

Luna hasn't held back. Its first year in the space included "A Clockwork Orange," "The Pillowman" — a famously savage play by Martin McDonagh — and, currently, "Brainpeople," a complex mystical drama by Oscar-nominated writer Jose Rivera ("The Motorcycle Diaries"). Set in a dystopian Los Angeles, the main character invites guests to her lavish estate for a meal celebrating her parent's death.

In other words, it's right in Luna's wheelhouse. Over the last decade, the tiny company has carved out a niche audience by tapping into a specific subgenre of contemporary plays: very dark, very funny and often equally as violent.

Campbell puts it this way: "My mother said, 'How come you don't do comedies?' And I was like, 'When you were at the show, were people laughing?' And she said, 'Yeah?' So our comedies are just funny in a different kind of way than people are used to. Let's face it, we all like to laugh at each other's pain. And we definitely bring the pain."

So far Luna's shoestring operation has thrived in its new neighborhood, a residential block just below the nightlife of South Street. And Campbell is hoping there are a few neighbors yearning for a darkly funny, truthful experience.

"Neighborhoods can be really cliquey in Philly," says Campbell. "You know how it is — you have your bar, you have your coffee shop. We're hoping to be the neighborhood theater."

Quoted

"Our comedies are just funny in a different kind of way than people are used to. Let's face it, we all like to laugh at each other's pain. And we definitely bring the pain."
Campbell, on Luna Theater's productions

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Gregory Scott Campbell is the artistic director of Luna Theater. / PROVIDED

Mother's Day Weekend

Free Dinner

Friday, May 9 Baby Boomers 5 to 10 PM

Celebrate Mom at Baby Boomers.
All Mothers receive a Mother's Day Print (below) and a Red Rose.
As always free dinner for all who register. Host WDAS Doug Henderson.
Register at octobergallery.com or 215-352-3114

Sunday, May 11 Mother's Day Concert and Dinner Noon to 6 PM

Mom eats for Free with a party of 4 or more.
One free dinner for every party of four.
Party of four, one free dinner. Party of eight, two free dinners. And so on.

Mother's Day Menu

Baked Chicken $10 Baked Tilapia $12 Baked Salmon $15 Sirloin Steak $15

All meals served with baked potato and 7165 salad. Desserts cheese cake and carrot cake - $5 each.
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Explore. The American way of overscheduling won't fly overseas.

Brown recommends traveling during the "shoulder season," between high and low seasons. / FUSE

Forget everything you've read about planning a European trip: It's not practical to cram every museum, landmark and eatery into your weeklong vacation. It's better to have a routine and only hit two big things a day, suggests the Travel Channel's Samantha Brown.

"Always overprepare," Brown says, "but never overschedule."

Sure, you should hit famous European museums — such as The Louvre in Paris and London's British Museum — but "don't spend all your time in the past," Brown says.

"You're there to enjoy what's happening now. Don't feel like you have to go to every museum," she says. "It's perfectly acceptable to spend an hour in the Louvre. Waiting in line is not the French experience."

Also, curb Instagramming or Facebooking every aspect of your trip, she advises, and slow down.

"Let your own sense of discovery take you places," Brown adds. "Sit down at a cafe because you want to be there."

And take an hour or so to walk the neighborhoods each day. Have a glass of wine at a cafe you just stumble upon. It's important to not only feel like you're on vacation, but to feel like you belong.

Book smart

Start researching your trip about six months out and book it a month after that, Brown suggests. Set up alerts through travel websites on when fares change. Book a red-eye flight; you can get that first night's sleep on the plane. Go during "shoulder seasons" — the time between high and low season.

Research

Take notes on what you want to do and what you'd like to see, but be OK with throwing it all out the window.

"When I get to a destination," Brown says, "after the first day, I sit down with my maps and research and look at my trip from a realistic standpoint. Now you're in reality; that's going to change a lot. You can still be spontaneous with your research."

What to pack, what to wear

Make sure you pack for the weather, but don't go overboard. Comfortable shoes and layers are a must, but Brown advises against dressing like a tourist. "You can wear sneakers, you can wear jeans — just not at the same time."

You want to dress as Europeans dress, Brown says. If you stand out as an American, that might attract pickpockets.

CHRISTINA PACIOLLA
@cpaciolla
christina.paciolla@metro.us

Off the beaten path

Brown's faves

These are Brown's favorite parts of some top European destinations.

1 **Paris:** Check out a small museum called The Musee de l'Orangerie, an art gallery of impressionist and post-impressionist paintings. Here, you'll find works by Monet, Picasso and more. You can tour it in about an hour.

2 **London:** Stop by cabmen's huts when in England. They are small green huts that cab drivers used to stop at, park their cabs and get something to eat and drink. "It's a slice of life," Brown says.

3 **Berlin:** Kunsthaus Tacheles houses graffiti-style murals and art sculptures. "It's a great place to see current local art."

The technical stuff

- Make sure your passport is up to date and not nearing expiration.
- Consider travel insurance for big trips, and check with your health-care provider to ensure you're covered in Europe.
- Check carry-on and luggage weights so you don't incur extra fees overseas.

More from Brown

Additional tips

1 Exchange money when you get to Europe. Always carry cash.

2 Always know how to say "hello," "please" and "thank you" in the native language. Don't ask someone, "Do you speak English?" If you're in Spain and need to ask a question, simply say "No hablo espanol — ingles?"

3 Go for a walk in the morning. Get coffee at the same place each day, Brown says, to establish a routine to make you feel like a local. "You get a great idea of what life is like there."

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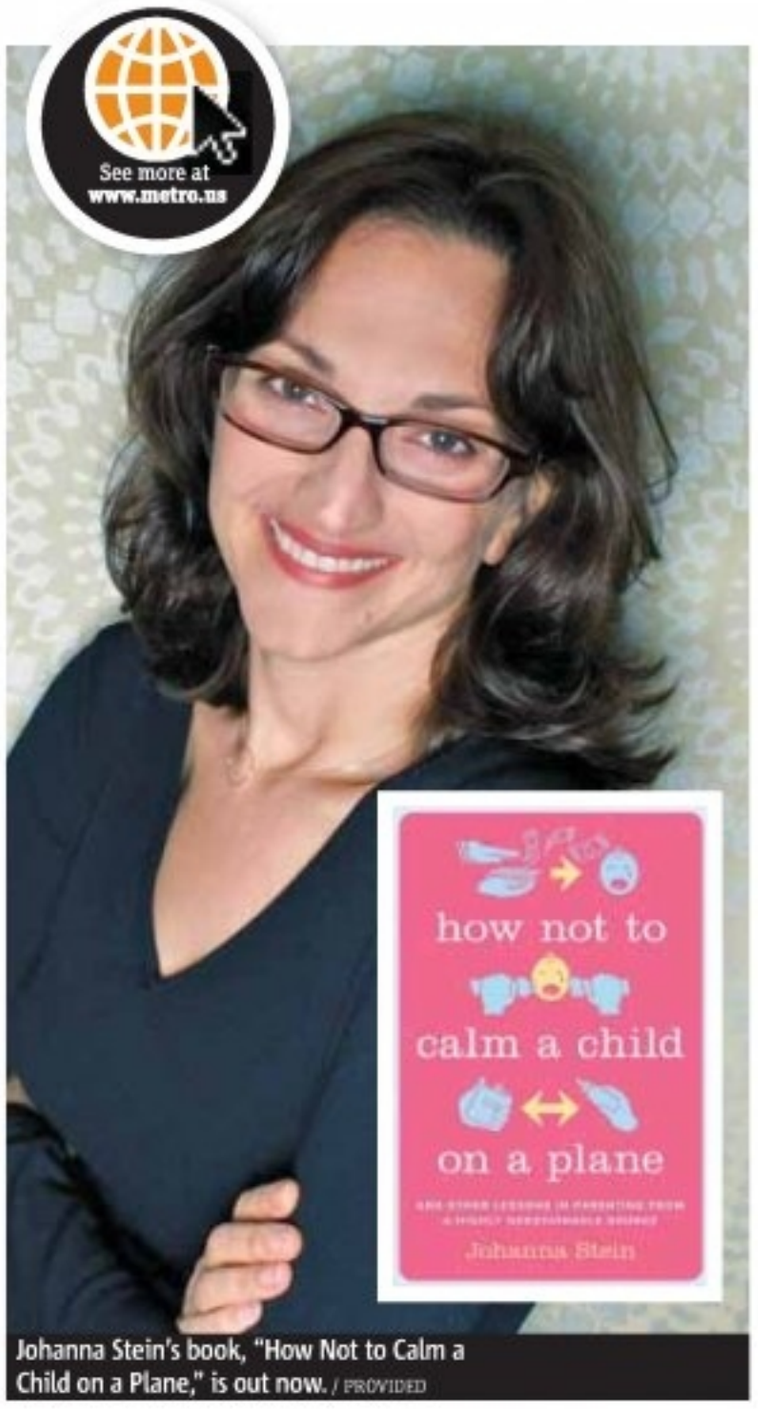

Johanna Stein's book, "How Not to Calm a Child on a Plane," is out now. / PROVIDED

Laugh off your parenting mishaps with Johanna Stein

She gets it. You can't be a stellar parent all day every day — and that's perfectly fine.

EMILY LAURENCE
@EmLaurence
emily.laurence@metro.us

No matter how hard you try (or how hard you pretend), it's just not possible to be a perfect parent all the time. Comedian and actress Johanna Stein invites you to pour yourself a glass of wine, stick your kid in front of the TV and embrace your less-than-laudable mommy moments with her new book, "How Not to Calm a Child on a Plane." We called Stein to get her take on sane parenting.

Do you remember your first parenting freak-out?
When you're pregnant, you feel the baby move around a lot. There was about a 10-minute period when I was poking the baby, which I liked to do to make it move around, and it just stopped moving. I started jumping on the bed trying to get the baby to move, and I was crying my eyes out thinking there was something wrong with it. That was the first freak-out, and they've been [happening steadily] ever since.

Who are your mom friends?

Good enough

How would you sum up parenthood in one sentence?
There's a great saying: "Good enough is good enough." Or how about this: striving for mediocrity. I strive for mediocrity. I aspire to mediocrity.

I lived in Los Angeles when my daughter was born, and my mom friends were other actors or writers. Now, my family and I live in Chicago, and they're from wider backgrounds. The good news is, they're all equally neurotic. I thought I would move to Chicago and meet a group of really level-headed, common-sense moms, and I was really happy to find out that they are all like me.

Are you ever tempted to put on that perfect mom facade?
All the time! Every day I wake up feeling like I'm going to be the best mother in the history of mothering, and then half an hour later, I'm subpar. So yes, I'm tempted to proclaim that I'm a perfect mom, which is why I'll do something like trying to make a puppet out of a barf bag on an airplane and then have it blow up in my face.

Your daughter is 7 years old now. What is something recent that has taken you by surprise?
How much smarter she is than me already. She is constantly asking me questions that I should know the answer to, things that I probably learned in second grade. I have to make sure my phone is always charged so I can fervently Google what she asks. Why is the sky blue? How does electricity work? I have no idea. I should know, but I don't.

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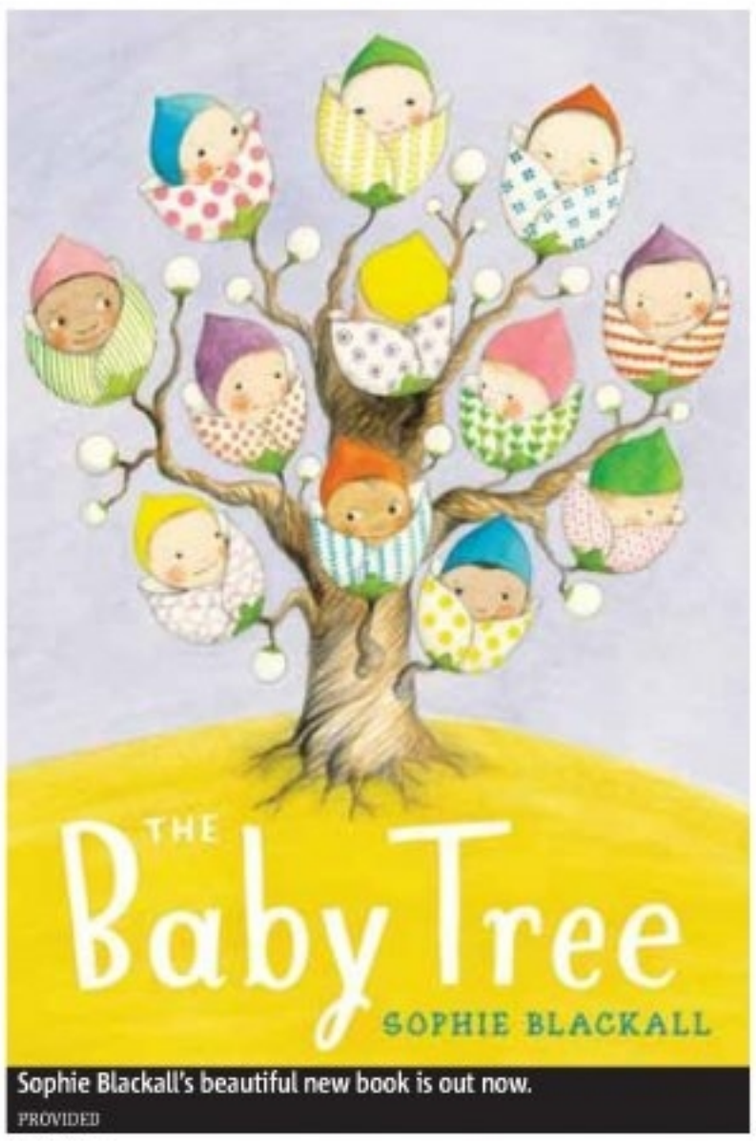
Metro exclusive. A sneak peek of Sophie Blackall's new kid's book

Even if you don't know illustrator Sophie Blackall's name, you've definitely seen her work: Her posters are all over the subway. Now, she's written and illustrated a new book that tackles a tricky parenting topic: explaining to young kids where babies come from.

"The Baby Tree" is about a young boy whose parents tell him that they are going to have a baby. This gets him wondering where exactly babies come from, and when he asks the different people in his life — his teacher, baby-sitter, grandfather and more — he gets some pretty funny answers. But besides being amusing, the book does end up giving a true explanation of where babies come from, in a way that's easy for kids to understand and won't make you blush.

Here, Blackall shares some of the book's illustrations exclusively with Metro. **EMILY LAURENCE**



Sophie Blackall's beautiful new book is out now.
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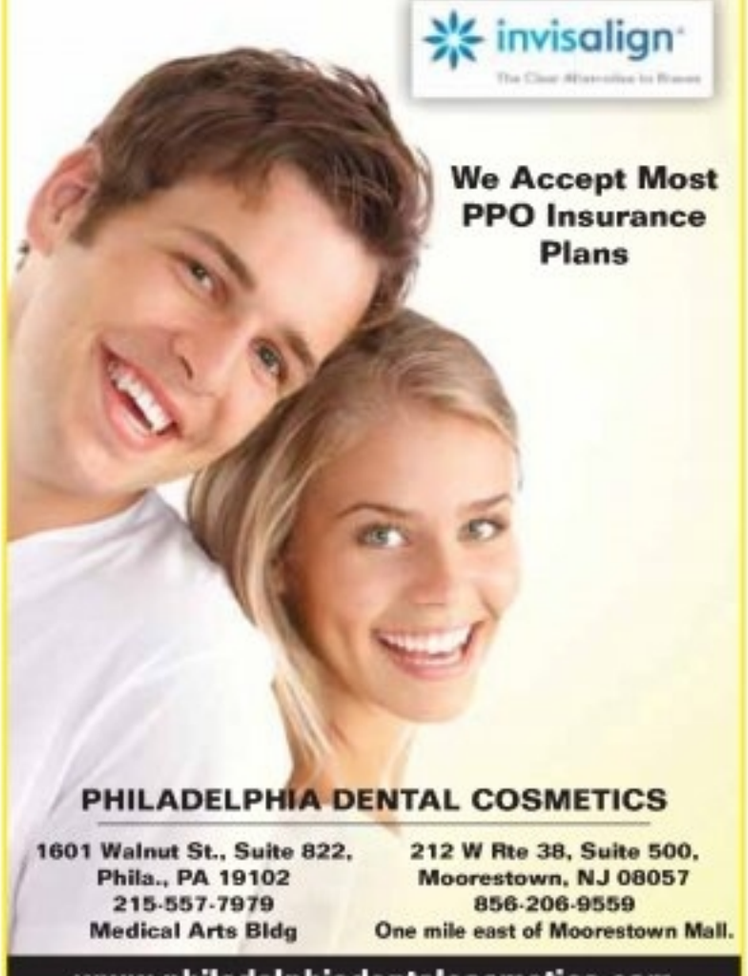

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Horoscope

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Your plans may not conform to what family has in mind. Keep to yourself and don't waste energy trying to convince others.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. Take advantage of any chance you get to draw an audience. You can make great progress by promoting what you have to offer.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Your health may become troublesome today. Be vigilant so that minor ailments don't worsen. Financial dealings will be profitable. Take care of personal paperwork.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. Avoid being overbearing today. Show your friends that you have a sense of humor and can be a team player.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Be aware of your surroundings and keep your defenses up. Protect your valuables and be prudent with regard to handouts.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. It's unfortunate, but you cannot always protect the ones you love. Offer them your support, be a sounding board and give positive suggestions.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. Someone will get the wrong idea if you appear to be wasting time. Keep busy and resist the urge to put off things.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Travel and educational activities will bring you the highest return. Your adventurous mood will lead to discoveries.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Your patience and tolerance will be lacking today. Before you blurt out something hurtful, consider being on the receiving end of your intended comment.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Meet-and-greet events will lead to new friendships and opportunities. Don't move too quickly. Savor the moment.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. Focus on finishing what you start. Prove that you have what it takes to be successful by accomplishing what you promise.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. You can accomplish anything you set your mind to. Embrace a challenge, and you will grab the attention of someone with influence.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Sudoku: Easy and hard

8			6				2	4
6				2		1		
1		7		5			9	
			5	3			8	
	6						7	
	7			6	2			
	8			4		3		7
		2		1				5
4	1				8			9

	1		2	5	8	7		
	2				3			1
8							2	3
2					4			
3	6						7	4
			6					8
6	8							7
9			1				5	
		7	8	9	6		3	

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Letters

Get some common sense for Mother's Day

Re: 'For your mama dearest' (Metro, May 1) I love my mother very much and I want to get her something nice for Mother's Day — but I'm not sure who would beat me in the head first, my mother, my father or myself, if I spend $400 on a blanket for Mother's Day. Who in their right mind would spend $400 on a blanket? If that blanket isn't cooking my food and cleaning my house, it costs $80 or less. (P.S. I understand benefiting female artisans in Rwanda and that's great, but those earrings are too large for an elephant's head, let alone a human's.)

JENN MATRONE, VIA EMAIL

A climate of stifled speech

Re: 'Climate confusion' (Metro, May 2) I would like to ask letter writer Adam Greenberg whether he believes a free press should decline to publish any dissenting viewpoints in the future? Then he would save us all the tiresome burden of debate and the exchange of ideas.

BOB PHILLIPS, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!

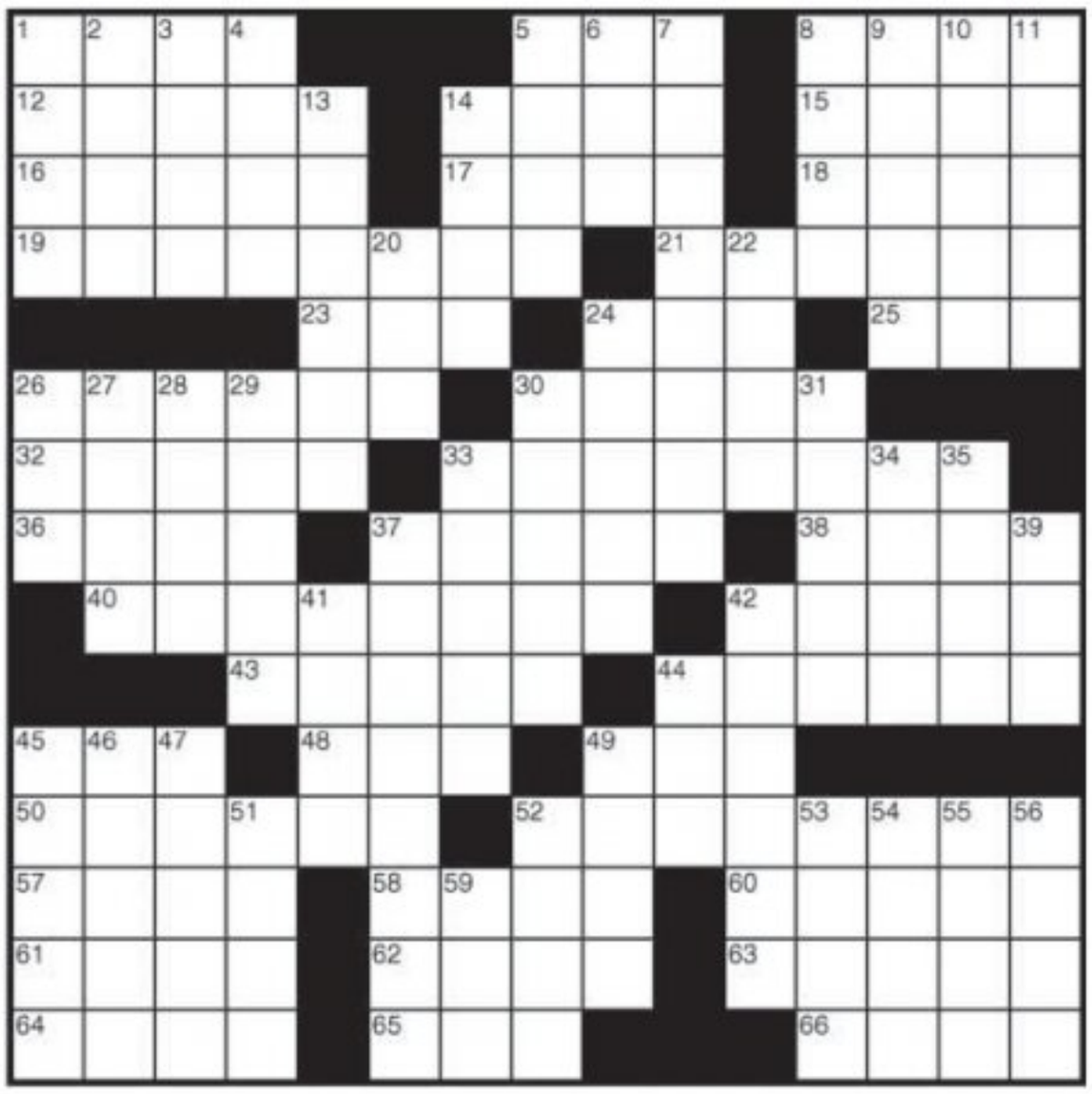
Interactive Crossword

Crossword

Across
1 Auction site
5 Pat on
8 Pound sound
12 Unlucky gambler
14 Showroom model
15 S&L offerings
16 Tend the turkey
17 Indigo plant
18 Family man
19 Style
21 Heavy-duty engine
23 Fair grade
24 Finale
25 "Slippery" tree
26 Fabric softener amount
30 Feels dizzy
32 As — — (usually)
33 Went downhill
36 Hard to find
37 Philbin of TV
38 Disney CEO Bob —
40 "Enter the Dragon" star (2 wds.)
42 NASA milieu
43 Swelter
44 Athena's domain
45 Gridiron div.
48 Bonfire remains
49 Rapper Tone- —
50 Burden bearers
52 The axe, so to speak (2 wds.)
57 "— do for now"
58 Borodin prince
60 Rigs, as dice
61 Lox locale
62 Chromosome unit
63 Ocean fish feeders
64 Party-tray cheese
65 Head gesture
66 Kind of pilot

Down
1 Isle off Sicily
2 Razorback
3 Type of prof
4 Hairy humanoid
5 Repudiate
6 Fifi's boyfriend
7 Courage
8 "Holy cow!"
9 Wipe out data
10 Boutonniere's place
11 Choir selection
13 Save from disaster
14 Have the nerve
20 Util. bill
22 Lazy
24 Hair-raising
26 Taxi
27 Desert dweller
28 Happy rumble
29 — -de-lis
30 Thesaurus compiler
31 Prunes
33 Cardiff residents
34 Mild oath
35 Retro art style
37 Transfer
39 Dream acronym
41 Film, as of dust
42 Grass cutter
44 Beat the field
45 Put up with
46 Wined and dined
47 Type of lily
49 Onetime Trevi Fountain coins
51 Lean
52 Ducks' haunt
53 Spreadsheet function
54 Rustic road
55 Fateful day
56 Classroom sound
59 Earth (pref.)

Yesterday's answer



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3 SPORTS

Top freshman

Sixers boast NBA's top rookie

There really wasn't any doubt, but now it's official: Sixers guard Michael Carter-Williams won the NBA Rookie of the Year award, becoming the second Sixer to win the award (Allen Iverson, 1996-97). Carter-Williams averaged 16.7 points, 6.3 assists, 6.2 rebounds and 1.86 steals this season.

MOST IMPORTANT WEEK OF YEAR FOR ROSEMAN

Eagles GM Howie Roseman and owner Jeffrey Lurie will work with head coach Chip Kelly to decide this year's Eagles draft class. / GETTY IMAGES

The best general manager in Philadelphia can walk through Center City this morning in total anonymity. Even though he holds one of the top jobs on our most popular sports team, he is still just another face in the crowd. His name is Howie Roseman, and this is the biggest week of his year.

On Thursday night, Roseman will oversee a draft that will determine the fate of the Eagles' 2014 season. If the GM cannot find a wide receiver to replace Pro Bowler DeSean Jackson and add some key defensive pieces, the Birds will need divine intervention to make the playoffs, let alone match their 10-win season of last year.

Everyone knows coach Chip Kelly has the final say, but Roseman's involvement in the draft process — from scouting, to interviewing, to ranking the players — only seems to grow from year to year. And with each season, so, too, does fan confidence that the 38-year-old former contract negotiator actually knows what he's doing.

The youngest GM in our city, Roseman has earned the distinction as our best for a couple of important reasons. First of all, the only constant in the past two excellent drafts has been Roseman, who bridges the coaching eras of Andy Reid and now Kelly. Second, he actually cares about the fans.

Ruben Amaro Jr. is also fan-friendly, but he has made an absolute mess of the Phillies roster. And the other two GMs, Sam Hinkie of the Sixers and Paul Holmgren of the Flyers, have the personality of plywood. At the moment, none of them has any chance at a championship.

The Eagles, on the other hand, could be a contender again, and Roseman is one of the major reasons for their re-ascension. He drafted Nick Foles, had a say in the impressive rebuilding of both lines, drafting Jason Kelce, Lane Johnson, Cedric Thornton, Bennie Logan and added key free agents like DeMeco Ryans and Connor Barwin.

Roseman has never been recognized as a major decision-maker — or recognized at all, for that matter — because he has always been seen as an extension of unpopular ex-president Joe Banner and because he always came across as a wannabe. He seemed more like an errand boy than a real GM.

Now, though, that perception is changing. Roseman was a guest on my WIP radio show last week, and he sounded as if he had grown into his role. His best moment was when he guaranteed that the Eagles would find a difference-maker at wide receiver. He even suggested they might end up with two.

The GM did something else worthy of our acclaim. When asked if he believed the Eagles were wise to say nothing for a month after releasing a fan favorite, Jackson, he said: "We aren't 100 percent [right]."

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

The voice of Philly sports

ANGELO CATALDI

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Idle thoughts

- Clippers owner Donald Sterling has a record of over three decades of horrific, biased behavior, and his associate, V. Stiviano, says he's not a racist? Sterling needs to leave the NBA as soon as possible and V. Stiviano must shut up.
- A.J. Burnett has been unhittable since he suffered an inguinal hernia. In other words, the Phils are four hernias away from having an amazing rotation.

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Cataldi. Flyers owner Snider overrates own team after Game 7 loss

Flyers chairman Ed Snider gave his team a grade of B last week after they were ousted in the first round of the playoffs, the 39th straight time they have failed to win a Stanley Cup. Sixers owner Joshua Harris proclaimed recently that his 19-63 season was "a huge success." Have the people running our winter sports franchises lost their minds?

A master at self-delusion, Snider said he was not satisfied with the Flyers rebounding from a 1-7 start to make the post-season. Then he boasted that they had the goalie of the future (Steve Mason), a core of young "Stanley-Cup-type" players and, of course, captain Claude Giroux. Nope, he's not satisfied at all.

What Snider actually has is an overrated captain and a roster filled with bloated contracts. His GM, Paul Holmgren, has been in the position for eight years, despite negotiating one bad deal after another. They are going nowhere.

Our other winter team is filled with the promise of a new direction, but also the possibility of a spectacular failure. Sam Hinkie, the architect of the reconstruction, has no track record and an aversion to people. Harris himself is a tremendous businessman with no idea how to run a sports franchise.

It's time Harris and Snider both come to grips with reality. They are running franchises in a demanding sports city, charging hundreds of dollars for tickets to their games and hawking jerseys and hats and anything else that can carry a bloated price tag.

This is Philadelphia, not Podunk. In Philadelphia, you don't get to pat yourself on the back until you earn it.

ANGELO CATALDI

The Flyers fell shy of their goal of winning a Stanley Cup. / GETTY IMAGES

Cataldi on the Phillies

Is Hamels getting soft?

Six years ago, it would have been a ridiculous question. Now it must be asked: Is Cole Hamels a soft player?

Since his heroic performance for the Phillies in the 2008 World Series — for which he was awarded the MVP — Hamels has become an enigma. And the evidence is mounting that the tiger on the mound back then has become a pussycat.

Just consider his many tribulations since the start of training camp this year. First, he said he couldn't be ready for the season opener because of biceps tendinitis, even though he had a full month to prepare. Then he experienced a setback, which led to more public emoting. Now, apparently, he can't pitch when the weather turns cold or wet.

Last Tuesday night, Hamels melted in the rain as the Phillies lost to the Mets at an empty Citizens Bank Park. The ace pitcher walked five batters — four in one inning — hit another and threw a wild pitch in a dreadful 6-1 defeat. After the game, Hamels questioned his own ability to adjust to adverse conditions.

"Sometimes when you pitch, you have to battle the elements, and the elements definitely got the best of me today," said Hamels. "It led to a very poor performance. I'm truly embarrassed."

Cole Hamels / GETTY IMAGES

Hamels has not shown the same heart since his 2008 brilliance. Remember, the next season — which ended in failure for him and the Phillies at the World Series — he said at one point that he just wanted the season to be over, to end his own personal misery.

Hamels gave Philadelphia a gift that will be cherished forever: a championship. There will be no hope for another, however, until he rediscovers the spirit of a champion.

ANGELO CATALDI

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